

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 589
By Cobb

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory PFC Daniel Bradley McClenney on the occasion of the posthumous award of the Silver Star for his heroic service with the United States Marine Corps in Afghanistan.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Tennesseans continue this time-honored tradition of volunteerism through service in the Armed Forces, including the United States Marine Corps; many of these honored defenders of our nation and its liberties have fallen in battle throughout our country's history; and

WHEREAS, Private First Class Daniel Bradley McClenney, United States Marine Corps, was killed in combat in Afghanistan on June 24, 2004; PFC McClenney's fireteam was seeking to locate and disarm enemy militia in the Konar province of Afghanistan when enemy fire from two ambush positions broke out against the Marines and coalition forces; and

WHEREAS, PFC McClenney was wounded in the initial burst of enemy gunfire, but he aggressively exchanged fire with the enemy; when his team leader was killed, PFC McClenney took over radio communications and gave constant situation reports to the firebase and quick reaction force for 30 minutes; and

WHEREAS, PFC McClenney continued to exchange fire with the enemy while also requesting medical evacuation for his entire team; with a severe wound in his abdomen and a broken arm, he fought hand-to-hand with the enemy until mortally wounded; and

WHEREAS, had not PFC McClenney's fireteam reacted in a quick and decisive manner, the enemy would have dealt a detrimental blow to the U.S. and coalition forces; PFC McClenney displayed an indomitable fighting spirit in his last hours, and his life and death constitute an enduring testament to the price of freedom; and

WHEREAS, a 2003 graduate of Shelbyville Central High School, Daniel Bradley McClenney was the beloved son of Randy McClenney of the Flat Creek community in Bedford County and the late Veda McClenney; and

WHEREAS, following the patriotic tradition for which Bedford County and the Volunteer State are renowned, Daniel had determined early in life to join the military; like many in his generation, the attacks upon America by the forces of international terror was a call to arms that could not be ignored; and

WHEREAS, treasured by his family and friends as a "very brave boy with a huge heart," Daniel enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps after graduating from high school and was subsequently deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom; and

WHEREAS, like thousands of others of this nation's sons and daughters, Daniel did not shrink from serving in combat, believing in the justice of the cause to protect our national security and liberty and to free the Afghani people; and

WHEREAS, a beloved son, brother, and grandson, Daniel McClenney now lies at rest among the lovely and peaceful hills of the Flat Creek community, which he loved so dearly as part of the land he gave his life to protect; and

WHEREAS, last month, Lt. Colonel Julian Alford, commanding officer of PFC McClenney's battalion, presented the Silver Star posthumously to Randy McClenney, Daniel's father; Sam Patterson, regional director of the organization Statues of Servicemen (SOS), presented a bust of PFC McClenney to Bedford County and the McClenney family; and

WHEREAS, a number of PFC McClenney's fellow Marines, including Sergeant Pete Lindenthal and Lance Corporal Brian Molbey were present at the ceremony and spoke glowingly of their fallen comrade; and

WHEREAS, Private First Class Daniel Bradley McClenney served with great courage and gallantry, giving his life for his country and for the cause in which he believed, and for that

ultimate sacrifice, he deserves proper recognition; as a member of the United States Marine Corps, he proudly continued an essential tradition of American society: the concept of the citizen-soldier; and

WHEREAS, Daniel McClenney's pursuit of excellence in the military and his great love of his family, his fellow soldiers and his country, are exemplified in his selfless sacrifice of his own life to preserve all that he held dear; heroic actions by Americans like PFC McClenney have ensured the continued freedom of our nation and the preservation of its ideals throughout our history; and

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are proud to join with the United States Marine Corps and the citizens of Bedford County, the State of Tennessee and the United States in honoring a fallen son; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor the memory PFC Daniel Bradley McClenney of Bedford County for his heroic sacrifice of his life as a member of the United States Marine Corps and express to his family our sorrow for his loss and our gratitude for his commitment to the cause of freedom.

BE IF FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our pride in the posthumous award to PFC McClenney of the Silver Star and the presentation of a bust in memory of his gallantry.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.